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8/24/01

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named Inventor : Zine-Eddine Boutaghous	
Appln. No. :	
Filed : Herewith	Group Art Unit:
Title : EXTENDED ALUMINA BASECOAT ADVANCED AIR BEARING SLIDER	Examiner:
Docket No. : I69.12-0496	

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Box Non-Fee Amendment
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

SENT VIA EXPRESS MAIL
Express Mail No.:

Sir:

Prior to an Examiner's first Action in the above-identified application, please enter the following amendments:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 9 (marked up version attached in Appendix), such that pending claims 1-14 are as follows:

1. An air bearing slider comprising:
a transducer for communicating with a disc; and
means for supporting the transducer so that the transducer is at a closest position with respect to the disc during flight.

2. A slider of claim 1 wherein the means for supporting the transducer comprises:
~~a composite slider body with a front portion composed of a first material and a rear portion composed of a second material, the slider body having an air bearing surface defined on a disc opposing face of the slider body, where the air bearing surface comprises the front portion and the rear portion; and~~